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GOTCHA! SOVIETS CAUGHT CHEATING RED-HANDED

WASHINGTON — U.S. intelligence agencies have discovered a major new arms treaty violation by the Soviets just days before President Reagan's summit meeting with Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Defense Intelligence Agency has detected through spy satellites a massive new Soviet arms program, senior administration officials said.

By NILES LATHEM, Bureau Chief

The weapons system has been set up to protect the Soviets' new SS-25 mobile intercontinental missiles in a blatant violation of the 1972 ABM Treaty, sources said.

The Soviets are deploying mobile SA-X-12 surface-to-air missiles and a mobile "griddle plan" radar system to protect the newly deployed SS-25 missile batteries, according to the sources.

Experts in the Pentagon say the two programs establish an anti-ballistic missile system — which is banned by the 1972 treaty.

With the system, the Soviets would be able to launch a first strike against America and still have the power to defend their missiles against a U.S. counter-attack.

The new information was relayed to the



White House earlier this week as the President was making his final preparations for his summit with Gorbachev next week.

Gorbachev is expected to blast Reagan's Star Wars plan at the summit.

The Soviet leader believes the planned space weapons program is a violation of the ABM Treaty.

U.S. officials have said repeatedly that research into high-tech Star Wars arms is fully

consistent with the ABM Treaty.

The U.S. also has no anti-ballistic missile system.

A senior American arms control expert told reporters at the White House yesterday that Reagan plans to press Gorbachev about the "erosion" of the ABM Treaty.

The President also will confront the Soviet leader on violations of the SALT I and SALT II accords, the arms expert said.

This means the Soviets could use their fixed silo intercontinental missiles to launch a first strike and still protect their SS-25 missiles from a U.S. counter-strike.

The system also gives the Soviets the capability to defend the mobile missiles from U.S. medium-range and submarine-launched missiles, sources said.

The Soviet missiles already are nearly impossible to track by U.S. satellites.

The Pentagon yesterday also sent a 70-page report to the White House detailing what it calls a "systematic" campaign by Moscow to violate other arms control accords to gain strategic advantage over the U.S.